ALLEN ARCHER SFC USARMY

BORN IN FAIR HAVEN ,VT. DEC.19,1938
KIA MARCH22,1967,WAS IN COUNTRY ONLY TWO MONTHS
GREEN BERET
BURIED IN ARLINGTON CEM.
SERVED IN ARMY FOR 14 YEARS
WAS KILLED DURING HELICOPTER RESCUE ATTEMPT.

SFC. ALLAN H. ARCHER

FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. — Funeral services for Sfc. Allan H. Archer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Archer of Waterbury, Vt., who was killed in Vietnam March 22, will be held here Monday at the John F. Kennedy Chapel for Special Forces. Chaplain (Maj.) A. E. Smith will conduct the services. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery Tuesday at 10 a.m. with full military honors.

Sfc. Archer had been in the military service for 14 years, one year with the Special Forces and he had been in Vietnam two months.

Survivors besides his parents include his wife, Mrs. Janice L. Archer, and a sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Moulton of Germany.

BRUCE MORRISON -PFC Marines

K.I.A. Jan.13,1968 age 19

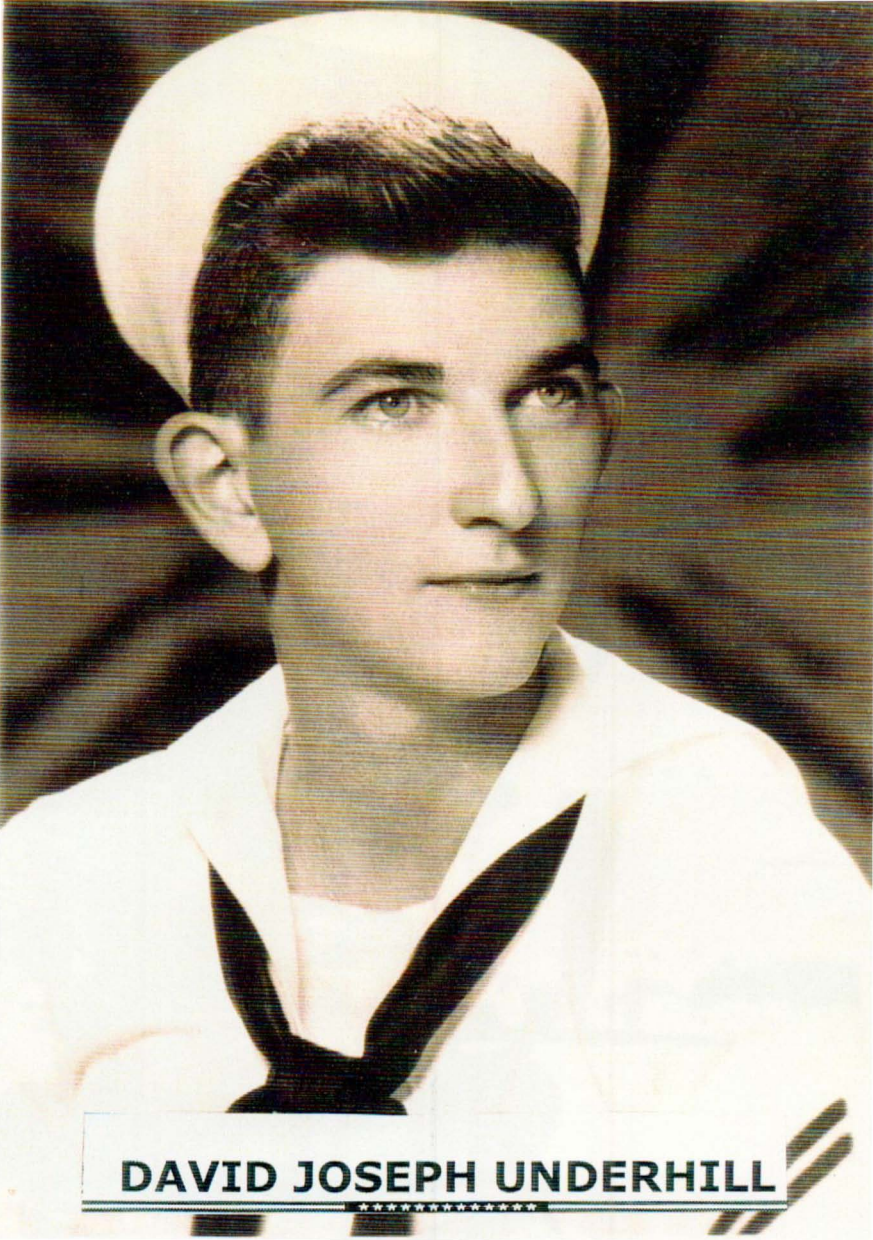
Bruce is from Proctor,Vt.

Chittenden Captain In Command in Vietnam

CHITTENDEN — (Special) — Army Capt. David J. Sargent, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher M. Sargent, of Chittenden, assumed command of Headquarters Company of the 9th Infantry Division's 15th Engineer Battalion in Vietnam, Oct. 1.

Capt. Sargent entered the Army in February 1965 and was last stationed in Germany.

He is a 1958 graduate of Rutland High School. The captain's wife, Judith, lives in Montpelier.



DAVID JOSEPH UNDERHILL

UNDERHILL DAVID JOSEPH

SA - E2 - Navy - Regular
19 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Nov 12, 1946
From FAYETTEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA
Casualty was on Apr 15, 1966
SOUTH VIETNAM
Non-Hostile, died of illness/injury
FIXED WING - PILOT
AIR LOSS, CRASH AT SEA
Body was recovered
Religion
PROTESTANT
Panel 06E - - Line 122

Local Youth Dies on Ship Off Viet Nam

A 19-year-old youth from School Street has become the city's first casualty in the war in Viet Nam.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Underhill of 79 School St. received

SEAMAN UNDERHILL

word here Friday afternoon of the accidental death of their son, David Underhill, a deck crewman aboard the U.S.S. Kitty Hawk in the South China Sea off the coast of VViet Nam.

The youth was reportedly killed in a helicopter accident aboard the aircraft carrier.

The family was informed that the body is enroute to Rutland. They expect further information on the details of the death before the body arrives.

Underhill enlisted in 1964.

Besides his parents, the youth is survived by three brothers, Harry C. Underhill Jr., 27; Edward Underhill, 25; and Richard Underhill, 16, all of Rutland and two sisters, Mrs. Fred Baker and Mrs. John Stone, both of Wallingford.

Rites Tomorrow Here For Sherburne GI Killed in War

SHERBURNE — (Special) — Funeral services for Pfc. Dennis Wilbur, 18, of Sherburne, who was killed in Vietnam Feb. 4, will be held at the Aldous Funeral Home in Rutland Wednesday at 2 p.m. Burial will be in Riverside Cemetery at Sherburne.

He had enlisted in the Army Oct. 28, 1965, and after basic training at Ft. Dix, N.J., he obtained his jump wings at Ft. Benning, Ga.

He had arrived in Vietnam in December, 1966, with Company E, 4th Battalion, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

The son of Richard and Martha (Allen) Wilbur, he was born in Southbridge, Mass., Oct. 15, 1948.

He attended public schools in Charlton, Mass., and Woodstock Union High School at Woodstock.

He is survived by his parents; a brother, Wayne Wilbur; two grandmothers, Mrs. Elizabeth Allen and Mrs. Florence Wilbur, both of Charlton; aunts, uncles and cousins.

Friends may call at the funeral home Tuesday from 7 to 9 p.m.

DENNIS WILBUR

PFC -Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade
18 year old single
Born Oct.15, 1948
From Killington
Dennis entered the Army on Oct.28 1963 and after basic training at Fort Dix he obtained his jump wings at Fort Benning.His tour of duty in Vietnam

began on Dec. 4,1966
Casualty was on Feb. 4,1967 in Gia Dinh S.V. Hostile Ground Casualty
Gun, Small Arms Fire
Body was recovered

PFC Dennis Wilbur

Dennis enlisted in the United States Army On October 28, 1963 and after basic training at Ft Dix, New Jersey, he obtained his jump wings at Fort Benning, Georgia.

Dennis arrived in Vietnam in December 1966, with the 44th Battalion of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Dennis was from Sherburne and was killed on February 4, 1967.

Rutlander Presumed Killed In Vietnam Rescue Attempt

Army Platoon Sgt. Edward A. Birmingham, 26, husband of Mrs. Sallie Birmingham of 89 East St. and the father of three children, has been reported missing in action in Vietnam and is presumed dead.

Mrs. Birmingham reported Friday night she has received word from Army officials that her husband was last seen on Monday entangled in a rope while trying to rescue a buddy under enemy fire at a river crossing.

She said witnesses at the scene reportedly have little hope her husband is still alive. Sgt. Birmingham, an eight-year Army veteran this month, was reportedly based in the area of Chulai in South Vietnam.

He received a Bronze Star with a V for valor last May. Birmingham was stationed with the 101st Airborne, the 327th Infantry. His wife said he apparently has been fighting for some time in the First Corps war area of South Vietnam.

Birmingham, a 1958 graduate of West Rutland High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Birmingham of Pittsford.

The Rutlander's wife said her husband left this country for Asia last Nov. 8. after being stationed in Germany. He was "one of those pulled out of Germany to fight in Vietnam," she said.

Mrs. Birmingham said her husband fell into the river and was not seen getting back out. No one knows if he was hit by enemy fire, she added.

She said her husband's body has not yet been found and it may take up to a year before he is officially listed as "dead."

The couple have three children, David, 6, Jason, 4, and Carrie, 17 months.

Sgt. Birmingham was due home this Nov. 8.

SGT. BIRMINGHAM

Rites Here On Monday For Soldier

Funeral services for 26-year-old Sgt. 1.C. Edward A. Birmingham, USA, killed in action in Vietnam two weeks ago, will be held Monday at 11 a.m. at Christ the King Church.

Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery in Alexandria, Va.

Sgt. Birmingham was an infantry platoon sergeant with the 101st Airborne Division's 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry.

He was killed while trying to rescue a wounded comrade under fire during a river crossing operation near Chulai.

Sgt. Birmingham had been stationed in Germany before he was sent to Vietnam in November. He had served for eight years.

He was graduated from West Rutland High School in 1957 and attended the University of Vermont.

He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Birmingham of Pittsford. His widow, the former Sallie Birch, lives at 89 East St. with their two sons, David, 6, amd Jason, 4, and their daughter, Carrie, 1.

Sgt. Birmingham is also survived by four sisters, Mrs. Albert Basso of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Miss Yvonne Birmingham, Miss Jeanne Birmingham, and Miss Louise Birmingham, all of Pittsford; two brothers, Thomas Birmingham and Robert Birmingham, both of Pittsford; his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Lena Oldenburg of Bridgewater; his paternal grandmother, Mrs. Flossie Birmingham of Erieville, N. Y., and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

There will be no calling hours.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Aldous Funeral Home.

Birmingham, Edward A., PSGT, U.S. Army
FIRE SUPPORT BASE BIRMINGHAM, Phu Bai, Thua Thien Province

A platoon is a basic organizational element of a company sized unit. It is commanded by a lieutenant and has a noncommissioned officer in the grade of E–7 as its platoon sergeant. Although lieutenants were trained in combat tactics they relied heavily on the skills of the more experienced platoon sergeant. Unlike other military occupational specialties, the position of Platoon Sergeant is also a recognized rank. Recipients of the title bare their ultimate responsibilities to the men that they lead into combat.

Platoon Sergeant Edward A. Birmingham, a native of Rutland, Vermont, was serving in Germany when he was reassigned to the 327th Infantry, 101st Airborne Division operating in the I Corps area of Vietnam. Birmingham arrived in Vietnam 8 November 1966 and soon after led his platoon into action in the Chu Lai area. The twenty-seven year old, eight year Army veteran received the Bronze Star for valor in action against the enemy in May 1967.

Then on 2 October 1967 Sergeant Birmingham lead his platoon to the banks of a swirling river deep in enemy territory. In the northern provinces of South Vietnam, the high mountains shield the coastal plains from the rains brought in by the wet monsoon which occurs May to October. October is the beginning of the dry monsoon –– a form of persistent drizzle accompanied by treacherous fog that the French call "Crachin." These fogs, which materialize suddenly, often slowed down overland movement. Coupled with the monsoon-swollen rivers, such conditions can turn muscles into cords of aching stiffness and tax both men and equipment to their limits. It was under such conditions that Birmingham and his men trudged through thick wet jungle and heavy fog only to be stopped by the dangerous currents of the isolated river.

The platoon slung ropes across the river to ford the barrier, but Viet Cong lay concealed in the mist on the opposite bank. As the first few men entering the water clutched the ropes to brave the current, the enemy opened up with small arms and automatic weapons fire. One of the platoon members became entangled in the rope while the enemy leveled fire at the men on the life line. Platoon Sergeant Birmingham plodded into the river to save the endangered man. During his rescue efforts Sergeant Birmingham was swept away by the powerful current. It was not until days later that his body was found down stream. By that time his family had been notified that he was missing in action and presumed dead. Ten days later Platoon Sergeant Birmingham's body was returned for a military burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

Fire Support Base Birmingham in Quang Tri Province was named in honor of the heroic platoon sergeant. In 1969 FSB Birmingham became the headquarters for the 1st Battalion, 502d Infantry, 101st Airborne Division.

Edward Arnold Birmingham was born on 11 December 1940. His home of record was Rutland, Vermont. His name is inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the east wall, panel 27E, line 40.

PFC - E2 - Marine Corps - Regular
19 year old Married, Caucasian, Male
Born on Dec 12, 1948
From NORTH CLARENDON, VERMONT
His tour of duty began on Aug 20, 1968
Casualty was on Nov 06, 1968
in QUANG NAM, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
PROTESTANT
Panel 39W - - Line 27

****

PETTIS STEVEN GENE

SP4 - E4 - Army - Selective Service
198th Light Infantry Brigade
20 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Nov 11, 1948
From FAIR HAVEN, VERMONT
Length of service 1 year.
His tour of duty began on Sep 20, 1968
Casualty was on May 14, 1969
in QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
BAPTIST
Panel 24W - - Line 10

GILFORD FRANK DASHNER

DASHNER GILFORD FRANK

CPL - E3 - Army - Selective Service
11th Light Infantry Brigade
21 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Nov 02, 1946
From BURLINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS
His tour of duty began on Apr 26, 1968
Casualty was on Sep 18, 1968
in QUANG NGAI, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
PROTESTANT
Panel 43W - - Line 26

****

Cpl. Gilford F. Hashker
written by his sister
Hawn H. Hance

Gilford Frank Hashker was born in Rutland on 2 November 1946 the only son of Norman and Hamaris (Smith) Hashker. He was named for his uncle First Lieutenant Gilford Pierce of Shrewsbury, VT. Pierce, pilot of the B-17 bomber Vermont Lady, was lost in action over the Bay of Biscay in January 1944. ~~Hrones~~ Hashker was born on the birthdate of his Aunt Florence, the widow of Gilford Pierce.

Hashker spent his younger days in Cuttingsville and Rutland, Vermont. He afterwards moved to Burlington, Massachusetts, where he graduated from high school in 1964. He attended the University of Maine for three years. He planned on graduating with a degree in forestry like his uncle Gilford Pierce.

From an early age Gilford loved the outdoors. He was an avid fisherman and hunter. He also enjoyed playing his guitar.

In November 1967 he entered the U.S. Army and in April 1968 arrived in South Vietnam. He was a rifleman with Co. H of the 1st Battalion, 20TH Infantry, 11TH Infantry Brigade (Americal Division) stationed near Hue Pho. Four months later on 18 September 1968 his unit was participating in a Combat sweep operation near the village of Go Tro, 20 miles west of Tuang Ngai City. He died instantly from a chest and head wound from enemy automatic weapons fire when his unit came under attack. Eight other men from his ~~unit~~ Company were also wounded during the firefight.

~~Prior to his death~~

He was buried with military honors on 28 September at Laurel Glen Cemetery in Cuttingsville (Shrewsbury), Vermont as he had requested before his departure.

Prior to his death he was awarded:

National Defense Medal
Vietnam Service Medal
Vietnam Campaign Ribbon
Combat Infantryman Badge
Sharpshooter Badge with rifle bar
Marksman Badge with automatic rifle and machine gun bars.

Posthumously he was promoted to Corporal and was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart and Good Conduct Medal. A memorial to him and others was erected at Burlington (MA) High School in November 1968.

When the moving wall was taken down in Rutland its departure fell on the anniversary date of his death - 18 September. As an only son and brother he is sadly missed by his family

Vt. Gov. Howard Dean, center, presents Patriot's Medal to Frances and Joseph Silva, parents of Joseph Silva, who was killed in action in Vietnam Sept. 26, 1970. Ceremony took place Sept. 21, 1996, at Camp Johnson in Colchester.

Thursday Extra

Lt. Silva's Rites Here Wednesday

10-5

Funeral servic
Joseph A. Silva, 2
Street, who dieo
Sept. 26, will be he
at 11 a.m. at St. Pe
Burial will be
Cemetery.

Marine, Due Home Soon, Battle Victim in Vietnam

A 20-year-old Marine who was scheduled to leave Vietnam next week was killed there Monday, the Department of Defense reported Friday. Dead is Lance Cpl. Joseph K. (Jody) Fish, son of Winston Fish of Mount Holly and Mrs. Theresa M. Chmiel of 29 Howe St. He died of a gunshot wound in the head received in fighting in the city of Hue in northern Vietnam. Hue has been the scene of bitter fighting since the January offensive by the Viet Cong.

The fighting entered its 24th day Friday, with Viet Cong soldiers still lodged in the city's ancient Citadel. The fighting has been street-to-street and house-to-house, and Marine casualties have been especially heavy.

In a letter received Friday by his aunt, Mrs. Michaleen Napolitano of 13 Lyman Ave., L. Cpl. Fish described the fighting in Hue:

"Soon I hope we will be leaving here. It ... be ... been enough for us. ... real bad here ... know how I ... "I've be ... scared for ... Five hou ... rived, the ... of his dea ... L. Cpl ... municati ... Headqu ... Co., ... Marin ... He ... Sept. ... assi ... stat ... an

Lt. Silva suffered f
when he attempted t
"mechanical ambush
land-mine or abo
explosive device, a
spokesman said.

Lt. Silva was injured
weapon, assumed
American, deto
prematurely, the spo
said.

LT. JOSEPH A. SILVA

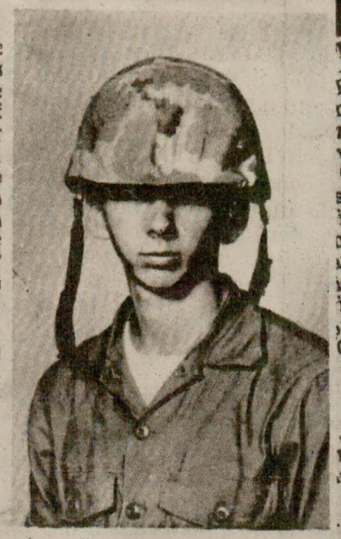
The soldier was stationed with Company 4, First Batallion of the 12th Infantry, 47th Infantry Division, at Binh Dinh province in the second military region.

He was born Nov. 18, 1946 in Rutland, son of Joseph C. and Frances (Muscatello) Silva. He attended Mt. St. Joseph Academy and Norwich University in Northfield, and graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in 1969.

He had been in Vietnam for three months, and was a platoon leader.

Silva is survived by his ... (Mikolek)

L. JOSEPH FISH



Cpl. Gary A. Hall, son of Mrs. Daisy Hall of Shrewsbury, who was reported killed in Vietnam Sunday night. The family was notified that Cpl. Hall, who was with the U.S. Marine Corps, was killed Aug. 29. Formerly serving in Sidney, Australia, Cpl. Hall recently was assigned to Vietnam, and only two weeks ago his family received word that he was at ...

Funeral Services Are Scheduled Saturday For a Rutland Native Killed in Vietnam War

2-7-69

Funeral services for a former Rutland youth killed in Vietnam will be held Saturday at 11 a.m. at St. Raphael's Churc Poultney.

The Rev ... El P ... (Bemis) Thoma Carlsbad ... ved to ... with ... ools ... les

Business Leaders Club, ... Catholic Youth ... ne ... zation. ... was born in Rutland on ... 6, 1947. ... sides ... ived b ... n of B ... andmot ... ello ... ith ... aterna ... Carl F ... severa ... cousir ... Fu ... unde ... Fur ... in ... L. ... and

... said witnesses at the ... reportedly have little ... e her husband is still alive. ... Birmingham, an eight-year ... ny veteran this month, was ... ortedly based in the area of ... in South Vietnam. ... a Bronze Star ... valor last May. ... d with ... was ... 8.

Rutlander Presumed Killed In Vietnam Rescue Attempt

2-7-69

Army Platoon Sgt. Edward A. Birmingham, 26, husband of Mrs. Sallie Birmingham of 89 East St. and the father of three children, has been reported missing in action in Vietnam and is presumed dead.

Mrs. Birmingham reported Friday night she has received word from Army officials that her husband was last seen on Monday entangled in a rope while trying to rescue a buddy under enemy fire at a river ... the said witnesses at the ... reportedly have little ... e her husband is still alive. ... Birmingham, an eight-year ... ny veteran this month, was ... ortedly based in the area of ... in South Vietnam. ... a Bronze Star ... valor last May. ... d with ... was ... 8.

the 101st Airborne, the 327th ... Infantry. His wife said he ap ... parently has been fighting for ... some time in the First Corps ... war area of South Vietnam.

Birmingham, a 1958 graduate of West Rutland High School, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Reginald Birmingham of Pittsford.

The Rutlander's wife said her husband left this country for Asia last Nov. 8. after being stationed in Germany. He was "one of those pulled out of Germany to fight in Vietnam," she said.

Mrs. Birmingham said her husband fell into the river and was not seen getting back out. No one knows if he was hit by enemy fire, she added.

She said her husband's body has not yet been found and it may take up to a year before he is officially listed as "dead."

The couple have three children, David, 6, Jason, 4, and ... months.

Birmingham was due ... 8.

WILLIAM THOMAS

City Native Is a Victim Of the War

2-7-69

A former Rutland youth was killed in Quang Nam, Vietnam, Tuesday. Pfc. William M. (Mike) Thomas, 19, was serving with the U.S. Marine Corps at the time of his death.

He was born in Rutland on May 1, 1949, the son of Francis H. and Elizabeth (Bemis) Thomas.

Pfc. Thomas attended schools in Carlsbad, N.M., and St. Charles Borromes Seminary in El Paso, Tex. He studied journalism at the University of New Mexico and joined the Marine Corps in January, 1968.

Besides his parents, of Colfax, Ind., he is survived by a ...

Funeral Rite On Tuesday For Marine

3-7-69

Funeral services for Lance Cpl. Joseph K. (Jody) Fish, USMC, 20, will be held Tuesday at 11 a.m. at St. Peter's Church. Burial will be in Calvary Cemetery.

L. Cpl. Fish was killed Feb. 19 during the savage fighting to recapture Hue, South Vietnam, from Viet Cong soldiers.

He was the eighth area serviceman to die in Vietnam.

L. Cpl. Fish was the son of Winston Fish of Mount Holly and Mrs. Theresa K. Chmiel of 29 Howe St.

Friends may call at the Aldous Funeral Home Monday from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 ...

Poultney GI Killed in Hue, South Vietnam

3-6-69

POULTNEY — (Special) — Army Spec. 4 Philip Greene, 20, was killed in Hue, South Vietnam, Thursday, according to U. S. Army officials. Greene's father, Clifford Greene of Poultney, was notified of the death Monday night.

PHILIP GREENE

Details of the youth's death were not revealed by the Department of Defense in Washington.

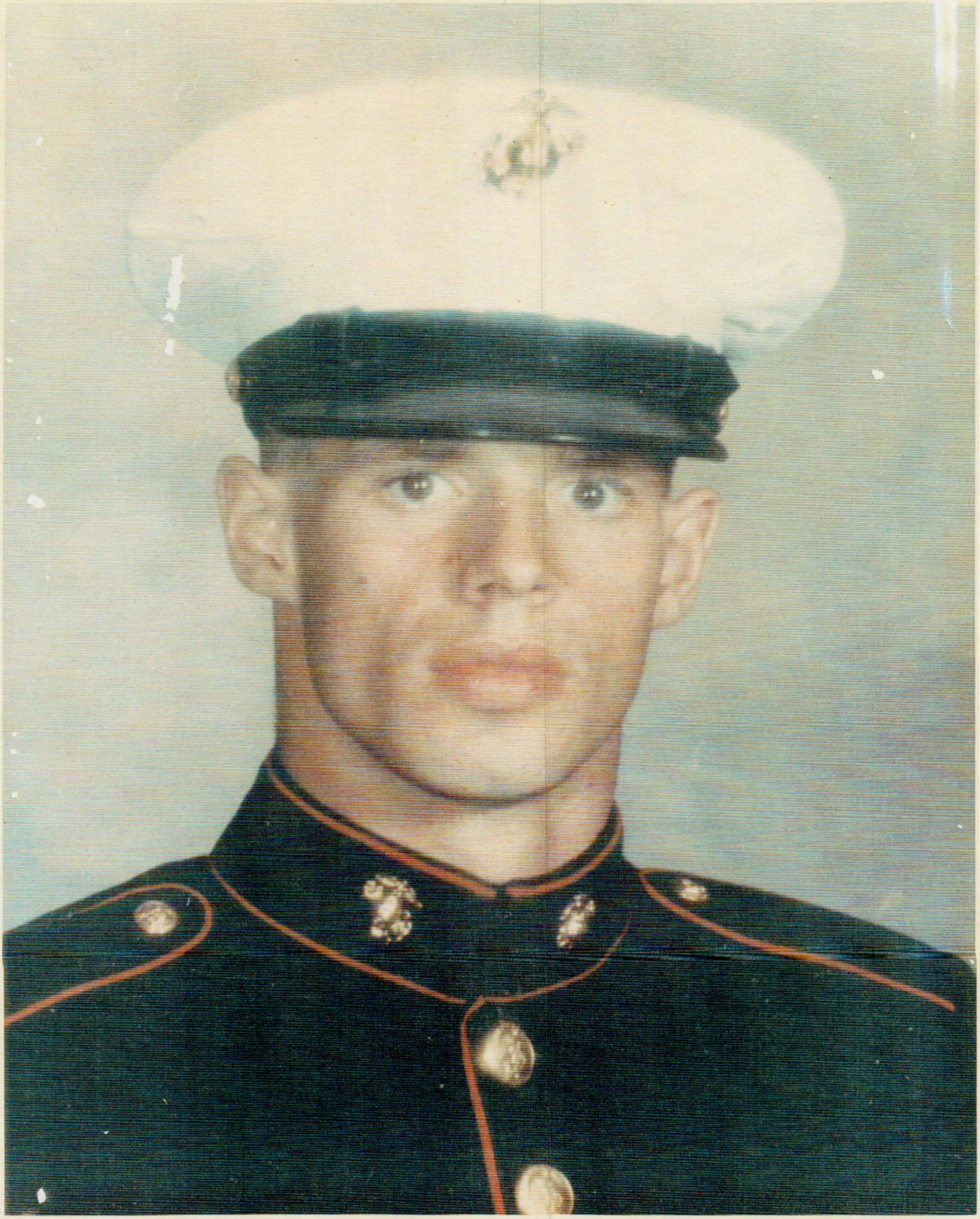
Greene, who was in Vietnam for several months, was attached to Company A of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. Units from the division were recently sent to Hue to aid U. S. Marines take the city from the North Vietnamese.

The enemy soldiers had held the city for 25 days before they were driven out by the Marines and soldiers Feb. 25. Enemy snipers are still holed up in some of the city's buildings.

The youth had recently notified his parents that he was awarded the Bronze Star with V for valor. He did not give any details of the action which earned him the medal, awarded for heroic acts.

Greene was stationed at Fort ... son, S. C. before being sent ... Vietnam.

He was born ...



A Dedication To The Memory Of The Late Jody Fish

Joseph (Jody) Kenneth Fish - 1948 - 1968
(Jody played in his last Rutland High School Vs Mt. St. Joseph Academy Annual Classic in November of 1964 when he was a senior at the Academy)

When one attempts to write a dedication to a young man like Joseph (Jody) Kenneth Fish, thoughts do not come easily because it is difficult to say all that you would like to say in just a few sentences. One who knew this young man could write a whole thesis on some of the qualities and characteristics that he possessed even though, only twenty years old. Jody was a man who was kind, who was generous, and who was understanding "par excellence". A person who is able to extend himself in these directions in such a short time, must naturally be a person who possesses a tremendous sensitivity and love for people.

Jody had these and more, for he had the determination to succeed in all his endeavors, even in death. In one of his many letters home he stated: "Whatever God wants, He can have, for . . . . through this toilsome world, once and only once I pass; if a kindness I must show, if a good deed I may do to a suffering fellow man, let me do it while I can. No delay, for it is plain . . . . I shall not pass this way again". What more can a man give, than that which is his most treasured gift . . . LIFE.

Many will remember Jody for his fine display of friendship and good sportsmanship on the football field. He was not the biggest in stature, but he was a big man on the field because he had the determination and dedication that go into making a good football player; one cannot lose no matter what the score, if he has concern for others. He showed this many times right here on St. Peter's Field and his final victory came on a hill in Viet Nam on the 20th day of February 1968.

FISH JOSEPH KENNETH

LCPL - E3 - Marine Corps - Regular
20 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Sep 06, 1947
From RUTLAND, VERMONT
Length of service 1 year.
His tour of duty began on Mar 16, 1967
Casualty was on Feb 19, 1968
in THUA THIEN, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
ROMAN CATHOLIC
Panel 40E - - Line 20

LA ROSE JOSEPH RHUBEN

PFC - E2 - Marine Corps - Regular
19 year old Single, Caucasian, Male
Born on Oct 04, 1947
From HADLOCK POND, NEW YORK
Length of service 1 year.
Casualty was on May 03, 1967
in QUANG TIN, SOUTH VIETNAM
HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
GUN, SMALL ARMS FIRE
Body was recovered
Religion
PROTESTANT
Panel 19E - - Line 28

Lt. Joseph Silva

Joseph Silva

A graduate of the Military Academy at West Point and a native of Rutland, Joe was killed on Feb. 19,1968 while serving with First Battalion of the 12th Infantry, 47th Infantry Division at Binh Dinh Province, Vietnam.

Lt. Silva suffered fatal injuries when he attempted to retrieve a Mechanical Ambush Device, commonly known as a land mine or above ground explosive device. The mine detonated prematurely while Lt. Silva tried to disarm it.

From left, Dick Doyle, Frances Silva, Joe Silva, Tom Reardon, Tom Skinner. The Silvas received the Vermont Patriot's Medal for their son, Lt. Joseph Silva of Rutland, who was killed in action in Vietnam on Sept. 26, 1970.

Frances and Joe Silva with Chapter 1 members at Fort Ethan Allen

A1C KENNETH WEIGHTMAN
U.S.A.F.

KIA JUNE 10, 1966
FROM. WALLINGFORD, VT.

KENNETH G. WEIGHTMAN JR.

A1C USAF
26 year old married
Born on Oct.5,1939
From Wallingford, Vt.
Casualty was on June 10,1966 in Ninh Thuan, South Vietnam
Non-Hostile, ground casualty
Body was recovered

WEIGHTMAN KENNETH G JR

A1C - E4 - Air Force - Regular
26 year old Married, Caucasian, Male
Born on Oct 05, 1939
From JOHNSON, VERMONT
Length of service 4 years.
Casualty was on Jun 10, 1966
in NINH THUAN, SOUTH VIETNAM
NON-HOSTILE, GROUND CASUALTY
OTHER CAUSES
Body was recovered
Panel 08E - - Line 32

****

Record Details

--- General / Personal ---

Last name: CLARK
First name: ROGER WILLIAM
Home of Record (official): PITTSFIELD
State (official): VT
Date of Birth: Tuesday, February 18, 1947
Sex: Male
Race: Caucasian
Marital Status: Married

--- Military ---

Branch: Army
Rank: SP4
Serial Number: 12739701
Component: Regular
Pay grade: E4
MOS (Military Occupational Specialty code): 11B2P

--- Action ---

Start of Tour: Wednesday, May 31, 1967
Date of Casualty: Monday, July 10, 1967
Age at time of loss: 20
Casualty type: (A1) Hostile, died
Reason: Gun, small arms fire (Ground casualty)
Country: South VietNam
Province: Kontum
The Wall: Panel 23E - Row 040

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Stories of Sacrifice Carved in Stone

By YVONNE DALEY

"The Secretary of the Army has asked me to express his deep regret that your son, Richard E. Phillips, was killed in action in Korea on September 24, 1951."

The death of Richard E. Phillips, the first Proctor resident killed in the Korean war, sparked a national outrage. The Proctor High School graduate had received only eight days of infantry combat schooling before being sent to Korea.

He was a youth full of promise, a graduate of Proctor High School and Bentley School of Finance and Accounting in Boston, who had been employed by the Proctor Trust Co. until he enlisted with two of his hometown buddies, Collin Fay and Bruce Humphreys.

The young men had been told that if they joined together, they could serve together, a promise that the Army didn't keep, according to Phillips' sister, Marilyn DelBianco of Rutland Town. Her brother died one month before his 21st birthday.

His name is engraved on a black marble plaque at the Army Reserve Training Center on North Street Extension in Rutland, along with the names of 18 other Rutland County Army veterans who died in service during the Korean conflict. Current records show that a total of 28 county men died in the Korean War.

Elsewhere in the county, there is little recognition of the veterans who died in that war, and no public tribute to the 25 Rutland County veterans who died in the Vietnam War.

The Rutland Veterans' Council has for some time recognized the lack of public recognition of the sacrifices made by these 53 area veterans in the last two, relatively unpopular wars and decided to rectify the problem.

Two plaques with the names of the veterans who died in those wars will be constructed and placed adjacent to the existing tribute to Rutland County World War I and World War II veterans in the foyer of the Rutland Armory.

The plaques will be carved from Danby white marble. The Rutland County Veterans' Memorial Fund Committee is currently seeking donations for the memorials, expected to cost about $25,000. Also, a telethon to raise money for the memorial is expected to be held on March 16.

Photo Courtesy of Marilyn DelBianco

Proctor High School buddies Bruce Humphreys (left), Richard E. Phillips (center) and Collin Fay joined the service together with the promise that they would serve together. It didn't turn out that way. Phillips died at Heartbreak Hill in Korea. Shown in front of the Rutland recruiting office are the three men with Phillips' mother, Polly.

A letter from retired Brig. Gen. Leonard F. Wing of Rutland, the chairman of the Rutland County Veterans' Memorial Fund, explains the long delay in recognizing the veterans of the war.

It reads in part: "During this time there has been much talk but little action about the establishment of a memorial to the 53 Rutland County veterans who gave their lives in these two conflicts."

In interviews with families of the deceased veterans, several common themes emerged.

There was a reoccurring story of veterans who died just days before their tours of duty were scheduled to end, young men like Joseph A. Silva, killed in Vietnam the day before he was supposed to be picked up from his assignment "in country" and brought to the base camp.

There was a theme of veterans who were sent overseas over the objection of parents who were left behind with difficulties that seemed intolerable and became more so when they heard the news that their sons had died.

These included Daisy Hall of Shrewsbury, whose youngest son, Gary, was sent to Vietnam after he signed up for military service on a dare. His mother wrote to officials asking for a hardship deferment as she was about to have an operation and had at home a younger daughter with cerebral palsy to care for. Another son had died in World War II.

Daisy Hall's efforts were to no avail. Gary Hall was hit once while serving in Vietnam and sent to Australia to recuperate. Not long after his return to Vietnam, he received a fatal blow.

Gary Hall was a typical 19-year-old, still unsure about his future. He loved to hunt and fish, drive and work on fast cars, spend time with buddies and girlfriends, his mother said.

Her description of her son was eerily similar to what other parents and siblings had to say of their own young men killed in war.

"He was a wonderful boy. When he came home in his casket, it had a bubble see- through top. He looked like a little kid," his mother said.

Her son is not the only one. Looking through the Rutland Herald clip file entitled "Area People Killed in Vietnam" is like opening a photo album of America in the late 1960s and early 1970s, not the album of long-haired youths protesting the war, but the other kids, the ones who went to war — and died.

Over the past few weeks, the Herald sought interviews with survivors of deceased veterans of the two wars and researched stories in newspapers of the times. The following account details some of the stories.

□

Richard E. Phillips was one of the most publicized of Vermont's deceased veterans because his death brought national attention to the high fatality of American veterans in Korea and raised questions about the quality of training for combat duty.

For Phillips' family at home, his parents, Hubert and Polly Phillips, and his sister, Marilyn, the death of the only son in the family so soon after being sent overseas was difficult.

The ordeal was intensified by the long wait before the body was sent home. Phillips died Sept. 24, 1951, but his body was not returned home to Rutland until the following July.

Marilyn DelBianco said the family endured the considerable media attention that the case attracted in hopes that Phillips' death would cause changes in military policy. Although a federal inquiry found that Phillips' training met the letter of the law, Vermont's congressional delegation learned that the bulk of Phillips' training was for his specialty in communication with the Signal Corps.

As a result of the high number of casualties early in the Korean conflict, as well as Phillips' death, Congress extended the minimum length of combat training.

Phillips too was "a great outdoorsman, who loved hunting and fishing. He was a good boy, a nice boy," his sister said.

□

At the end of Phillips' obituary is a short mention of another Proctor youth who had gone to fight in Korea. "Another Proctor boy, Arlond M. Tanner, Jr., previously reported missing in action, is now believed to be a prisoner of the Communists," it read.

Tanner died of malnutrition as a prisoner of war at age 19, according to his mother, Ella Tanner. Like so many other area youths, he enlisted right out of high school. After a long period of no response to her letters and months of concern, Ella Tanner was informed that the Army had learned of her son's death from another war prisoner.

Ella Tanner had lost another son, Benedict Henry Frappier, in World War II. "There's a lot of sad things that happen in these wars. I hope we're out of them now and for good, but I don't know," said the mother.

□

Charles Towne of Poultney also died a prisoner of war during the Korean conflict. He enlisted in the U.S. Army after graduation from Poultney High School in 1948, returned home in 1950, but was called back to service at Christmastime.

He was originally listed as missing in action, but it was later learned that he had been taken prisoner in July 1951 and was held in a Chinese prison camp near the border of North Korea and Manchuria. He died two years later at age 21.

Towne's mother was dedicated in her attempts to gain information about her son and learned of his fate after writing to the American Legion Magazine. It wasn't until April 1955 that his body was brought home and laid to rest in the Poultney Cemetery.

□

Geno J. Malise's death in combat in Korea was the last sad event in a life in which he had few breaks. His mother had died when he was born in Rutland. Times were rough and he was moved around a lot. He attended St. Peter's School, had lived in New York state for a time and served briefly in the Merchant Marines, according to his first cousin, John Mondella. He was 22 when he died in action while out on patrol.

□

Richard Dexter, a graduate of the Rutland High School class of 1962, never carried a weapon, but died in Vietnam at age 22. After graduation, Dexter attended Iowa State University for two years

(See Page 10: Soldiers)

Soldiers

Continued from Page 7

before transferring to the University of Missouri where he received a degree in forestry. At college, he was active in a nondenominational church mission group called "The Navigators."

Dexter joined the Navy's medical corps and was stationed at the Naval Hospital in San Diego before being sent to Vietnam. There, he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division in Da Nang on May 29, 1968. He served in the medical corps and as a chaplain's assistant. Five weeks after he arrived in Da Nang he was shot and killed.

□

Jody Fish lived a block away from Richard Dexter in Rutland. Fish and Joseph Silva were popular youths who had played football at Mount St. Joseph Academy on Fundsie Cioffi's undefeated teams in the 1960s.

Fish spent most of his youth with his grandparents, the Miellos, on Traverse Place in Rutland. In September 1965, he joined the Marines and was sent to Vietnam in February 1967. Less than a year later he was shot and killed in Hue during the Viet Cong's Tet Offensive.

He had written his aunt, Michaleen Napalitano, a letter that she received Feb. 23, 1968, that said in part, "Soon I hope we will be leaving here. It can't be soon enough for us. Things have been real bad here. I honestly don't know how I made it this far. I've been scared, scared, scared for days."

Five hours after the letter arrived, the family was notified of his death. He had only one week of duty in Vietnam left.

Back at home, Fish had paid for his prized possession, a Jeep. A brother, Ricky, convinced his father, Winston Fish, and his stepmother, Jane, now of Springfield, to let him retrieve the Jeep from the dealer. Two years and eight months later, Ricky died when he crashed in the Jeep. Two years and eight months later, a younger brother, Winston Fish Jr., drowned in Star Lake in Belmont.

"What we have of Jody are gorgeous letters and wonderful memories, but that was the beginning of much sadness, a time I think of all too often," said his stepmother.

□

Joseph Silva was tall and lanky, dark-haired and unassuming, the quiet type who, nevertheless, was a standout defensive player on Cioffi's MSJ football team that won 18 straight games. After graduating from MSJ, Silva attended Norwich University and later transferred to West Point, graduating in 1969.

Silva was assigned to Vietnam in 1970. Three months later, he was killed while trying to retrieve a "mechanical ambush device," or land mine, that he happened to notice just moments before he was going to be transferred back to his base. The mine was American-made.

□

Like Fish of Rutland, Phillip F. Greene also died at Hue, the scene of bitter fighting for several months in 1968. Greene was a farm boy drafted in September 1967, the son of Betty and Clifford Greene of Poultney. He was wounded twice during his six-month tour of duty and decorated nine times — seven by the U.S. government and twice by the Republic of Vietnam.

Greene's first wounds came during a Viet Cong ambush of his company. He was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for "helping to save his company" during that ambush.

Three weeks later, according to news accounts, he was killed at Hue, a city the U.S. Marines were attempting to take from the North Vietnamese. Greene was among a division of Army soldiers sent to help them as a member of a helicopter aviation unit whose job was to rescue downed pilots.

According to Army documents, while on duty near Ap Trach Phu in the Republic of Vietnam, Greene "while disregarding his own safety, drew fire upon himself as he provided covering fire for the evacuation of a wounded comrade." He was only 19 when he died.

□

Edward A. Birmingham, 26, a 1958 graduate of West Rutland High School, was reported missing in action in Vietnam in 1965 and presumed dead. His son, David, of North Clarendon, said Wednesday night that his father's body was later recovered.

Birmingham, the father of three, was last seen entangled in a rope while trying to rescue a buddy under enemy fire at a river crossing. According to news accounts at the time, Birmingham, an eight-year Army veteran, fell into the river and was not seen getting out.

□

Bruce Austin Morrison, 19, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Austin B. Morrison of Proctor, was killed in action Jan. 13, 1968. He was shot in the neck while fighting in the Quang Tri area south of the Demilitarized Zone. Nineteen Marines died in the same ambush.

Morrison had married the former Gretel Taran of Poultney the previous October and was assigned to South Vietnam the following month.

□

Steven G. Pettis of Fair Haven was awarded posthumously a Silver Star for gallantry in action and three other medals, including the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct medal. Pettis was mortally wounded in May, 1969, while serving as pointman in Vietnam with Company C, 1st battalion, 46th infantry. He was 20.

□

Also commended posthumously was Roger W. Clark of Pittsfield, who was killed July 10, 1967 during combat in Vietnam. "Specialist Clark distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions" while his squad was advancing under heavy fire against fortified enemy positions, according to Army documents relative to the Purple Heart Medal that was awarded the 1965 Whitcomb High School graduate.

□

William David Holden, 26, was another soldier who was awarded the Purple Heart posthumously. His mother, Guilda Hendricks, accepted the award at the local U.S. Army recruiter's office on April 21, 1967. Her son died of a gunshot wound in South Vietnam Feb. 16.

Holden was one of 6,000 4th Infantry Divsion soldiers who participated in Operation Sam Houston near the Cambodian border. His unit was returning from a long combat patrol when it came under heavy mortar and authomatic rifle fire from a North Vietnamese regiment.

□

Richard Godbout, another Rutland resident, died in January 1968 while in combat in the South Vietnam village of Hau Nghia, where he was assigned to a security mission. The particular area where Godbout was killed was the III Vietnam Corps or "Iron Triangle," a longtime Viet Cong stronghold.

Godbout, formerly of Goffstown, N.H., had married Linda Lawrence of Rutland in 1966. He was struck by an anti-tank round while riding an armored personnel carrier on a security mission.

□

John Edward Sweeney, a 1967 Poultney High School graduate, died July 18, 1968, aboard the U.S. Naval Hospital ship USS Repose after receiving multiple shrapnel wounds in his head and body while fighting in an area called Mudders Ridge.

He had enlisted in the Marines after graduation and was sent to Vietnam the following January, during the height of the Tet Offensive, considered among the most intense attacks on American forces by Communist Vietnamese.

Sweeney fought in the battle of Khe Sanh, which lasted 76 days. He was 19 when he died.

Those Who Died

The following is a list of known veterans who died during the Korean and Vietnam wars.

Korean War

Brandon: Thomas A. Denney Jr. and Howard Wetmore.
Castleton: David A. Ransom.
Danby: Raymond E. Phillips.
Fair Haven: Earl R. Cram, Raymond E. Garvey, Delmar E. May, Warren W. Spaulding and John L. Wiskoski.
Pittsford: Robert E. McCullough.
Poultney: James E. Loughan Jr. and Charles E. Towne.
Proctor: Richard E. Phillips and Arlond M. Tanner Jr.
Rutland City: Robert J. Bird, Lawrence E. Burke, John A. Carpenter, John R. Carrigan Jr., Richard F. Coleman, Ronald L. King, Geno J. Malise, Joseph P. Mangan, Richard A. Mangan, Howard H. Mason, John B. Previe and Bernard L. Richards.
Wells: Calvin H. Brace.
West Rutland: Porter S. Cameron.

Vietnam War

Brandon: Walter E. Cram.
Clarendon: Edward D. Henry and Joseph R. LaRose.
Danby: Harvey R. Howard.
Fair Haven: Steven G. Pettis.
Poultney: Philip Greene and John Sweeney.
Proctor: Bruce A. Morrison.
Rutland City: Allen Archer, Richard A. Dexter, Joseph K. Fish, Richard G. Godbout, William D. Holden, Joseph E. Kelley, Floyd C. Mathon, Arthur C. Morris Jr., Joseph A. Silva and David J. Underhill.
Sherburne: Dennis Wilbur.
Shrewsbury: Gilford F. Dashner and Gary A. Hall.
Wallingford: Michael A. Holden, Kenneth G. Weightman Jr. and Francis R. Wolcott.
West Rutland: Edward A. Birmingham.

Any corrections or additions should be noted to Arnold Johnson at 773-9358. Donations to the memorial can be made in care of Bea Noble, treasurer, the American Legion Post No. 31, 33 Washington St., Rutland, Vt., 05701.

KIA RUTLAND COUNTY

Allen Archer	Rutland
Edward Birmingham	Rutland
Roger Clark	Pittsfield
Gilford Dashner	Shrewsbury
Richard Dexter	Rutland
Joseph Fish	Rutland
Phillip Greene	Poultney
Gary Hall	Shrewsbury
Edward Henry	North Clarendon
Harvey Howard	Danby
Joseph LaRose	Chippenhook
Bruce Morrison	Proctor
Steven Pettis	West Haven
Joseph Silva	Rutland
John Sweeney	East Poultney
David Underhill	Rutland
Kenneth Weightman	Wallingford
Dennis Wilbur	Sherburne

STEVEN GENE PETTIS

20 YEARS OLD

BORN: Veterans' Day - November 11, 1948

FROM: West Haven, Vermont

SURVIVED BY: Donald (D. 1975) And Olive Pettis

SIBLINGS; Don Jr., Carol, Mike, Robyn & Dale

DESCRIPTION: Farm Boy, Outdoor Sportsman,
Kind Hearted, Likable, Friendly

SERVICE: Drafted, Army-INFANTry
Americal Division

AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY: Silver Star For Gallantry In Action, Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, Etc. In 1996 : Vermont Patriot's Medal

KILLED: May 14, 1969, 11:20 A.M., Village of Thanh Phouq, Quang Tin Province, Republic of South Vietnam in a search and clear operation. Note: His friend, Phil Hernandez of California (same unit) died just before him on the same mission.

TOMBSTONE: "BELOVED SON AND BROTHER, WE
ARE PROUD."

PERSONAL NOTE: He could have gone north.
Knew survival chances were slim.
Chose to serve his country.
But... did his country serve him?

CPS

Seaman David Underhill

David Underhill , age 19, was the city's first casualty of the Vietnam War. David, a deck crewman aboard the USS Kitty Hawk in the South China Sea, was reported killed in a helicopter accident aboard the ship. David enlisted in the United States Navy in 1964 and was killed on April 15, 1966.